

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
October 17, 2005

Committee Members Present: Matthew Johnston, Mike Shaughnessy, Dan Hughes, John Carr, Scott Shinn

Guests: Teresa Sumearll, Keith Strobel

Staff: Susan Golub

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved, with the addition of Salmon Bay Skate Spot and the following two report items at next meeting: 1) Ticketing of skaters in the street (based on a subcommittee TBD) and 2) Status of no skateboarding park signage at 40th and Charleston. Dahl Playfield was also moved to the top of the agenda.

Dahl Playfield: Teresa Sumearll updated the committee on the status of the proposed 3600 sq ft skatespot at Dahl Playfield and the extensive 11 month process that led to the approval of this skatepark site by the Parks Board in August. Teresa and her group, Boarders for Parks, submitted a Dept of Neighborhoods Small & Simple design grant application two weeks ago and expect to conduct public design meetings with the funding. Teresa will also apply for a Large Projects Grant in January and is seeking a fiscal sponsor for this. Scott suggested Groundswell NW and Susan said she'd follow up with Bill Keller and ARC.

Meeting Format:

Matt commented on the need to make the SPAC meetings more efficient, productive, and good-spirited. Adjustments to the meeting format will include the expansion of public comments to 5 minutes at the beginning and end of the meeting, and the removal of public comments during the meeting. The use of subcommittees will also be increased. Matt will e-mail his proposed changes to the SPAC membership.

Scott commented on the role of rules of order, meeting minutes, the need for a secretary and the status of posted SPAC minutes on the Parks web site. For this meeting, it was agreed that Susan would continue taking notes, that Scott would write the minutes from them, and that both would communicate with Parks staff regarding web page updates.

Public Comment

Keith Strobel heard about the SPAC through the public involvement process for the SeaSk8 replacement skatepark and would like to keep up with the progress of skateboarding in Seattle. Keith provided his contact information to the SPAC.

Skatepark Planning Resolution

Matt, John, Mark Johnson and Scott will be attending another meeting with David Della on Friday to continue work on a skatepark planning resolution that would study the best locations for skateparks and skateable terrain throughout Seattle, and would form a Skatepark Advisory Commission to proactively coordinate planning, outreach and funding among a broader variety of city and agencies, citizens and advocacy groups. With slight modifications and appropriate funding, the Resolution would be based on efforts in Portland, and would utilize a consultant to coordinate planning and outreach efforts with the Commission.

Mike commented that the SPAC could be more proactive if it was aware of new and proposed park upgrade projects. Susan will provide Mike with information about information resources in this area, including contact information for the City Hall Park Project Advisory Team.

Elliott Avenue Skatepark Update

As noted previously, work on 545 Elliott has been suspended. Matt commented that a priority should be placed on determining how to recover money from the budget that has already been spent. Susan will provide an estimate of the amount spent so far, and the potential for reuse of the skatepark design.

West Seattle Skatepark Siting

The committee reviewed the list of 10 West Seattle sites toured by a SPAC subcommittee on September 27. Matt reported on the potential advantages and disadvantages of the West Seattle stadium site, which is the preferred site at this time, in addition to Roxhill Park. Mike and Dan also expressed support for street skating near the Alki Bathhouse and for a “skate trail” along the Alki waterfront. The subcommittee will continue to gather information about potential West Seattle sites, including Boren Jr. High and a property near Salty’s, and will report again at the next meeting.

Lower Woodland

Susan reported that the first public meeting for the Lower Woodland skatepark will be 6 to 7:30 on November 15th at the Green Lake Library.

Scott reported on his meeting with Groundswell NW regarding potential fiscal sponsorship for a Dept of Neighborhoods Large Projects Grant, and expressed concerns about documenting the match for it. Discussion ensued regarding eligible sources of match and opportunities for applying grant and matching dollars to the ongoing construction project. Susan commented that the design will be phased, and will thus offer opportunities for volunteers to improve areas of the skatepark that will not be built during the first construction phase. Scott will follow up with Pamela Kliment and Laurie Ames regarding these issues, and report again at the next meeting.

Ballard

The Ballard Bowl will not open as previously communicated until the rest of the park opens in early 2006. Citizen calls for a Halloween skate jam in the facility are currently unresolved. Susan to follow up with Matt regarding the ongoing status of this.

Salmon Bay Elementary

Scott reported on the status of a potential 1000+ sq ft skatespot at Salmon Bay Elementary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.